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Returning to FIG. 27, after forming the annular gate dielectric layer 206 and the annular gate 207, a lightly doped region may be formed (S104). FIG. 8 illustrates a corresponding semiconductor structure; and FIG. 9 illustrates a cross-section view of the semiconductor structure illustrated in FIG. 8 along the A-A direction.

As shown in FIG. 9, an annular lightly doped region 210 is formed in the well region 202 at the outer side of the annular gate 207. The annular lightly doped region 210 may reduce the breakdown point of an avalanche effect of an LDMOS transistor, thus the breakdown voltage may be reduced.

In one embodiment, the annular lightly doped region 210 may be formed by forming a hard mask layer (not shown) exposing a portion of the well region 202 at the outer side of the annular gate 207 on the annular gate 207 and the semiconductor substrate 201; and forming the annular lightly doped region 210 by an ion implantation process onto the portion of the well region 202 at the outer side of the annular gate 207. When the semiconductor substrate 201 is used to form N-type LDMOS transistors, the annular lightly doped region 210 may be doped with N-type ions. When the semiconductor substrate 201 is used to form P-type LDMOS transistors, the annular lightly doped region 210 may be doped with P-type ions.

In certain other embodiments, the annular lightly doped region 210 may be omitted.

Referring to FIG. 9, after forming the annular lightly doped region 210, sidewall spacers 208 may be formed on the side surfaces of the annular gate 207 and the annular gate dielectric layer 206. The sidewall spacers 208 at the outer side of the annular gate 207 and the annular gate dielectric layer 206 and the annular lightly doped region 210 may have an annular overlap along a direction vertical to the surface of the semiconductor substrate 201.

Various processes may be used to form the sidewall spacers 208, in one embodiment, the sidewall spacers 208 may be formed by forming a sidewall spacer material layer on the semiconductor substrate 201 and the annular gate 207, and around the annular gate 207 and the annular gate dielectric layer 206; and performing an etch back process to remove the sidewall spacer material layer on the semiconductor substrate 201 and the annular gate 207. Thus, the sidewall spacers 208 on the side surfaces of the annular gate 207 and the annular gate dielectric layer 206 may be formed.

The sidewall spacer material layer may be made of any appropriate material, such as silicon oxide, silicon nitride, or silicon oxynitride, etc. The sidewall spacers 208 may also be stacked layers made of different materials. Various processes may be used to form the sidewall spacer material layer, such as a CVD process, a PVD process, or an ALD process, etc. The etch back process may be a dry etching process, or a wet chemical etching process, etc.

Returning to FIG. 27, after forming the sidewall spacers 208, a source region and a drain region may be formed (S105). FIG. 8 illustrates a corresponding semiconductor structure; and FIG. 9 illustrates a cross-section view of the semiconductor structure illustrated in FIG. 8 along the A-A direction.

As shown in FIG. 8 and FIG. 9, an annular source region 209 is formed in the annular lightly doped region 210, and a drain region 205 is formed in drifting region 203 at the inner side of the isolation structure 204. Referring to FIG. 9, a depth of the source region 209 may be smaller than a depth of the annular lightly doped region 210. The annular source

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region 209 and the drain region 205 may be formed by any appropriate process, such as an ion implantation process, or an embedding method, etc.

Thus, the LDMOS transistor may include an annular gate 207, a drain region 205 in drifting region 203 at the inner side of the annular gate 207, and an annular source region 209 in the lightly doped region 210 at outer side of the annular gate 207. An annular channel may be formed between the drain region 205 and the annular source region 209. The annular gate 207 may control the annular channel from different directions, thus the LDMOS transistor may have an enhanced channel control ability. Therefore, a short-channel effect may be effectively reduced, and the drive current may be increased. Further, the LDMOS transistor may occupy less area of a chip under a same drive current, thus the production cost may be reduced.

Thus, a LDMOS transistor may be formed by the above disclosed processes and methods, the corresponding transistor is illustrated in FIG. 8; and FIG. 9 illustrates a cross-section view of the LDMOS transistor shown in FIG. 8. The LDMOS transistor includes a semiconductor substrate 201 having a well region 202 and a drifting region 203 in the well region 202. The LDMOS transistor also includes a drain region 205 in the drifting region 203 and an annular isolation structure 204 surrounding the drain region 205. Further, the LDMOS transistor includes an annular gate dielectric layer 206 on the well region 202 and an annular gate 207 on an annular gate dielectric layer 206. Further, the LDMOS transistor also includes sidewall spacers 208 around the annular gate dielectric layer 206 and the annular gate 207, and an annular source region 209 in a lightly doped region 210 at the outer side of the sidewall spacers 208. The detailed structures and intermediate structures are described above with respect to the fabrication methods.

FIGS. 10, 12, 14 and 16 illustrate semiconductor structures corresponding to certain stages of the exemplary fabrication process of another LDMOS transistor; and FIGS. 11, 13, 15 and 17 illustrate cross-section views of FIGS. 10, 12, 14 and 16 along the B-B direction. For illustrated purposes, the exemplary fabrication process shown in FIG. 27 is still used to make the LDMOS transistor.

As shown in FIG. 27, at the beginning of the fabrication process, a semiconductor substrate with certain structures is provided (S101). FIG. 10 illustrates a corresponding semiconductor structure; and FIG. 11 illustrates a cross-section view of the semiconductor structure shown in FIG. 10 along the B-B direction.

As shown in FIG. 10 and FIG. 11, a semiconductor substrate 301 is provided. The semiconductor substrate 301 may include any appropriate type of semiconductor material, such as single crystal silicon, germanium, poly silicon, amorphous silicon, silicon germanium, carborundum, indium antimonide, lead telluride, indium arsenide, indium phosphide, gallium arsenide, gallium antimonide, alloy semiconductor, or epitaxially grown materials, etc. The semiconductor substrate 301 may also provide a base for subsequent processes and structures.

After providing the semiconductor substrate 301, a well region 302 may be formed in the semiconductor substrate 301. The well region 302 may be made of any appropriate material, which may be same as the semiconductor substrate 301, or different from the semiconductor substrate 301. If the semiconductor substrate 301 is used to subsequently form N-type LDMOS transistors, the semiconductor substrate 301 may be doped with P-type ions, and the well region 302 may be doped with P-type ions too. If the semiconductor substrate 301 is used to subsequently form P-type LDMOS